round it; and no doubt, such an appendage will keep the house warmer in winter, and cooler in summer, and will afford a dry walk during rain; but those who take a lease of a house with a veranda, which they are, of course, bound to keep in repair, should first well consider if it admits sufficient light to the rooms on the ground floor; and, secondly, whether it is well put together, and made of durable materials. Some houses which are surrounded by arcades, and which are exceedingly handsome and architectural externally, are yet more gloomy within than their possessors would, perhaps, like to acknowledge.

A thatched cottage is an object of admiration with many persons who have not had much experience of country life; and accordingly, we find several in the neighbourhood of London. Such cottages have, perhaps, the gable end covered with ivy, the chimney-tops entwined with Virginian creepers, and the windows overshadowed by roses and jessamines. The ivy forms an excellent harbour for sparrows and other small birds, which build there in spring and early in summer, and roost there during the winter. In June, so soon as the young birds are fledged, all the cats in the neighbourhood are attracted by them, and take up their abode on the roof of the house every night; the noise and other annoyances occasioned by which we need only allude to. We say nothing of the damp produced by the deciduous creepers and the roses, as we have already mentioned that: but we must here notice another evil, which is not so obvious, though quite as serious, and, this is, the numerous insects generated in the decaying thatch; and more especially that loathsome creature, the earwig, which in autumn, whenever the windows are open, comes into the house, and finds its way into every closet and drawer.

All cottages of this description harbour snails and slugs in the ivy, and spiders under the eaves of the thatched roof; and wherever there are spiders, there are also abundance of flies. The kitchens generally swarm with beetles and cockroaches, and the pantry with flies; while, from the closeness and want of ventilation in the rooms, it is almost impossible to keep fleas, &c., from the beds.

We have dwelt more particularly on the evils incident to a thatched cottage, because in it all cottage annoyances exist in an extreme degree; but the truth is, that all cottages which have not their ground-floors so much elevated above the surrounding surface as to be perfectly dry, and their rooms lofty, well lighted and ventilated, are subject to the same evils, though not quite to so great an extent.

Notwithstanding all that we have stated, we do not recommend our readers never to take a thatched, or other fancy, or ornamental cottage: we only wish to point out the inconveniences and extra expense to which their doing so will render them liable. We think we may safely assert that the same family that would want two servants under ordinary circumstances, would require three in a cottage of the kind we have been describing

What then, it may be asked, is the kind of suburban house least liable to these inconvenlences? To this we answer, one that stands high, dry, and free; that is compact in its general form; that has the diagonal line of its general plan south and north, so as to obtain the sun's rays on every window, on some part of every day that it shines,—or, in other words, that has no front or side pointing directly either east, west, north, or south; one that has the rooms, and especially the kitchen story well lighted, lofty, and ventilated; that has a secure roof of slate, lead or flat tiles, few creepers on the walls, and that is not choked up with trees or bushes. These conditions being complied with, the architectural style of the building may be left to the taste of the occupant.

As the cubic form is known to enclose more space with the same quantity of walling and roof than any other, so it is an established rule that a house square in the plan is preferable in all that regards comfort, habitableness, and economy of heating, keeping clean, and in repair, to one which is irregular in its plan. The next best form to that of a square is a parallelogram; and the worst form that can be adopted is that of a long, narrow, irregular building. A square house is more compact within, and from its form it is warmer in winter and cooler in summer than any other; it is more easily heated; it has less space occupied by passages, and is, consequently, more easily cleaned; and, externally, it exposes less surface to the atmosphere, and is, consequently, more easily kept in repair than any other. When economy is the main object, therefore, a square house ought to be chosen; and that it may combine architectural beauty with economy, both in first cost and in future repairs, one should be chosen in which the same description of brick or stone, the same style of workmanship, the same magnitude, kind, and disposition of windows, the same facings to them, the same kind of cornice, and, in short, the same architecture, is adopted on all the four sides. Above all things, as a matter of taste, a house ought to be avoided which has any one of its sides decidedly inferior to the rest in respect either to architectural design or execution. We should say, also, avoid, in point of habitableness and comfort, every house, the diagonal line of the general plan of which is not south and north, were it not that this maxim would condemn all those houses which have been built along and parallel to streets or roads which are directly east and west, or north and south. Unfortunately, the custom of placing suburban houses that are near streets or roads, with one of their sides parallel to that street or road, and without any reference whatever to its direction, is almost universal, even where there is a distance of 100 yards or more between the road and the house, though it is productive of two serious evils which admit of no remedy. The one is, that the opposite side, or front, of the house to that which faces the road is considered as the back, and is, therefore, generally designed and finished in an inferior style; and the other is, that no attention can be paid to placing the diagonal line of the plan of the house due south and north; and that, whether this is the case or not, depends on the direction of the road, and not on the will of the builder. The latter is much the greater evil; for so numerous are the advantages of this disposition of the plan, in point of solar light, warmth, ventilation, and cheerfulness, and even dryness and healthy vegetation in the garden or adjoining grounds, that in our opinion it ought to be made the governing principle in the placing of every detached house, whatever may be the direction of the street to which the house may be said to belong. In the suburbs of towns, according to the present parallel mode of building, the only houses that are properly placed, relatively to the sun, are those along streets which run from north-east to south-west; and from south-east to north-west.

Near London, where houses are built of brick, and where different kinds of bricks are employed in the same house, it would be difficult to find a suburban house of moderate size, in which an inferior kind of brick was not used on the back front, and even on the sides; but the bad taste of this mode of building only requires, we are convinced, to be pointed out to the occupiers and builders of suburban houses, to cause it to be avoided. It has, no doubt, originated in the practice of building street houses, in which the best bricks are always used on the side next the street; and which practice the town builder employed to build in the country has not been able to separate from his mind. We may observe here, incidentally, that where houses are built in continuous lines, the sides of one house forming the sides of those adjoining it, the sun can only shine on the two exposed sides; and that it may shine on these exposed sides, it is necessary that the line of the houses should be diagonal to a square formed by the cardinal points, as recommended above for single houses. Hence, no streets in towns ought either to be due east and west, or due north and south; and as this arrangement would not hinder all the streets from being at right angles as at present, the greatest advantages in point of light and ventilation would result from it, without any disadvantages whatever. It is surprising to us that this disposition of the streets has not been attended to, as a principle, in the laying out of new towns or villages.

We know it will be said by some persons, that a square house affords less architectural beauty than any other form, from the sameness of the general shape; but this is partly a mistake, and is chiefly believed to be true by such as consider variety to be one of the main beauties of architecture. Our opinion is, that variety, however prominent a beauty it may be in landscape, is only a subordinate one in architecture; and that the grand characteristic beauties of that are magnitude and symmetry. We would not exclude variety; on the contrary, we would produce it to as great an extent in the details as was consistent with symmetry; and of any two buildings equal in magnitude and symmetry, we should say that the one which possessed the greater amount of variety was the most beautiful.

Two great beauties in architecture, and without which an edifice can hardly merit to be called architectural, are the appearances of solidity and of magnitude. Now, no form whatever gives the appearance of solidity to so great an extent, in proportion to the quantity of matter employed, as the square or the circular form. Both these forms are equal in point of solidity; but the square (the quantity of matter being the same) has greatly the advantage in point of magnitude, by presenting, especially when two sides are seen at once, a much greater surface to the eye. A building in the form of a parallelogram, if seen only in front, may have the appearance of magnitude; but when one end is seen, and that is found to be narrow, the impression of the want of solidity is immediately felt in a high degree, and the impression of magnitude is proportionately diminished. Hence, a building in the form of a parallelogram, in whichever manner it may be viewed, is never so satisfactory as one in the form of a square or cube. Now, that a square or cubic building not only possesses, by the nature of its form, the essential and fundamental architectural beauties of solidity, magnitude, regularity, and symmetry, but also may be made to display the accessary beauties of variety, harmony, character, and style, might be proved by various examples; but it may be sufficient here to refer to the Gothic and Elizabethan mansions of former times; the noblest of which, and those which make the greatest figure in the history of our domestic architecture, were almost always built either in squares or quadrangles, or in the form of three sides of a quadrangle.

In choosing a house that is irregular in the plan and elevation, there are some advantages, but many disadvantages. The advantages are, that in particular situations, particular distant prospects may be better displayed; and that in all situations, even on a flat surface, a greater variety of home views, that is, views within the grounds, may be created.

This, it is obvious, is to be effected by placing the rooms in such a way that the principal windows in them will look on the view at a right angle. The disadvantages of an irregular house are, that it is always colder in winter (and warmer in summer) than a square house, from the exterior surface of almost every room being exposed to the weather on two or more sides; whereas, in a square house, only the corner rooms are exposed on more than one side. The chimneys in an irregular house do not draw so well, because the greater part of them are in the outside walls. On account of the great surface both of walls and roof, and of the greater number of gutters in the latter, it is clear that irregular houses must cost more at first, and require more to keep them in repair, than square, or parallelogram houses; the quantity of decoration on both being equal.

In choosing a house, with regard to style the Roman, or, as it is commonly called, the Grecian, is obviously preferable to the Gothic, from its greater compactness, and from its having comparatively few ornaments. The Roman may, indeed, be called the regular, and the Gothic the irregular manner of building. The Roman also deserves the preference on another account, namely, that all the interior finishings and furniture necessary to correspond with that style, are of a less expensive description, and are more easily kept clean and in repair than similar articles in the Gothic style. It is but just, however, to add, that there are some modifications of the Gothic style of building, which admit of being employed in cubical masses, and with almost as little ornament as is required in Roman or Italian edifices; and the kinds of Gothic furniture adapted to such houses are also comparatively simple.

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